

my Sioux Falls office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Robert is a graduate of Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Robert is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in history and political science. Robert is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Robert Peterson for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW VANDER WOUDE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Matthew Vander Woude, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Matthew is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Matthew is attending Pepperdine University, where he is majoring in economics. Matthew is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Matthew Vander Woude for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1482. An act to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 774. An act to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

H.R. 998. An act to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1607. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1634. An act to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1656. An act to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas.

H.R. 1831. An act to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2127. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to limit access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to participants of the PreCheck program and other known low-risk passengers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2206. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require recipients of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communication capabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2750. An act to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2770. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-related technology at airports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2843. An act to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Monuments Men.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1482. An act to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

H.R. 876. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 774. An act to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 998. An act to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1607. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military

sexual trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1634. An act to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1656. An act to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2127. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to limit access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to participants of the PreCheck program and other known low-risk passengers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2206. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require recipients of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communications capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2750. An act to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2770. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-related technology at airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2843. An act to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1881. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

H.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2383. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emerald Ash Borer; Quarantined Areas" (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0028) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2384. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservation Reserve Program" (RIN0560-A130) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2385. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sedaxane; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9930-84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2386. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2012 and 2013 Operation and Maintenance, Army, funds, and was assigned Army case number 15-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2387. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2388. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Loans in Areas Having Special Flood Hazards" (RIN1557-AD84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2389. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" (RIN2501-AD33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2390. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2391. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2013 Integrated Mortgage Disclosures Rule Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X) and the Truth In Lending Act (Regulation Z) and Amendments; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN3170-AA46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2392. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imposition of Special Measure against FBME Bank Ltd., formerly known as the Federal Bank of the Middle East Ltd., as a Financial Institution of Primary Money Laundering Concern" (RIN1506-AB27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2393. A joint communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs and the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Potential for the Use of Energy Savings Performance Contracts to Reduce Energy Consumption and Provide Energy and Cost Savings in Non-Building Applications"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2394. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Oregon; Grants Pass Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9931-13-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2395. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon; Grants Pass Second 10-Year PM10 Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9931-16-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2396. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Electronic Reporting Consistent With the Cross Media Electronic Reporting Rule" (FRL No. 9931-09-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2397. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for the State of Alabama; Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (FRL No. 9931-24-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2398. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; 2011 Base Year Emissions Inventories for the Washington DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9930-96-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2399. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; MI, Belding; 2008 Lead Clean Data Determination" (FRL No. 9930-81-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2400. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services,

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2401. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—August 2015" (Rev. Rul. 2015-16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2402. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Employee Plans Determination Letter Program" (Announcement 2015-19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2403. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Claims for Credit or Refund" (RIN1545-BI36) (TD 9727) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2404. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports entitled "Annual Report of the Board of the Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds" and the "Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2405. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0077—2015-0079); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2406. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2013 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2407. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2012 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2408. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program" for fiscal years 2013 and 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2409. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant and Integrative Medicine Programs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2410. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the State Health Care Workforce Development (SHCWD) Grant Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2411. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Developmental Disabilities Program" (RIN0970-AB11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2412. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2413. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Performance Standards for Ionizing Radiation Emitting Products; Fluoroscopic Equipment; Correction; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0828) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2414. A communication from the Chair of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board Regulations" (4 CFR Chapter II) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2415. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Jacksonville, FL; Savannah, GA; Hagerstown-Martinsburg-Chambersburg, MD; Richmond, VA; and Roanoke, VA, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AN15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2416. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Federal District Judgeship Act of 2015"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2417. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Debt Collection Recovery Activities of the Department of Justice for Civil Debts Referred for Collection Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2418. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 15-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2419. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifica-

tions" (RIN0648-XD927) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2420. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6" (RIN0648-XD976) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2421. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Omnibus Amendment" (RIN0648-BE50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2422. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD985) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2423. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closures for the Common Pool Fishery and Trip and Possession Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XE006) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2424. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-XD980) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2425. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2015 and 2016 Commercial Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-XD972) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2426. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2015 Recreational Accountability Measures and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper" (RIN0648-XE014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2427. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Re-Opening of Commercial Sector for Atlantic Dolphin" (RIN0648-XE017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2428. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Gulf of Mexico Region" (RIN0648-XD954) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 23, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2429. A communication from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update to National Fire Protection Association Standards, Incorporation by Reference" (RIN2900-AO90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2430. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-70. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to regulate airline baggage fees and processes for consumers as it relates to transportation of passenger luggage and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed luggage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 207

Whereas, deregulation of the airline industry in the United States began more than three decades ago in 1978; and

Whereas, a consequence of deregulation was the elimination of federal control over many airline business practices, including pricing and domestic route selection; and

Whereas, though deregulation limits federal control of airline business practices generally, the federal government continues to legislate and enforce certain consumer protections for airline passengers; and

Whereas, the United States Congress largely determines the degree to which certain rights of airline passengers are codified in law or developed through regulatory rule-making; and

Whereas, since deregulation, the primary means of competition amongst airlines has progressively centered on price, not service; and

Whereas, certain concerns for passengers of airlines include increasing baggage fees and passenger delays resulting from lost, damaged, or delayed passenger luggage; and

Whereas, the airline industry began to charge passengers a checked baggage fee per bag to curtail rising jet fuel costs and to supplement marginal revenue during times of economic decline; and